

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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----- 021800

R 240430Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 262

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INCPAC FOR POLAD

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0077

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PP

SUBJECT: PAPUAN SEPARATIST ACTIVITY

1. AUSTRALIAN PRESS AND RADIO HAS GIVEN MUCH MORE ATTENTION TO RECENT PAPUAN SEPARATIST ACTIVITY THAN PNG PRESS AND RADIO. AUSTRALIAN REPORTING AND COMMENT IS MUCH MORE ALARMIST THAN THAT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA. FOLLOWING EDITORIAL FROM THE AUSTRALIAN JANUARY 22 IS EXAMPLE:

2. QUOTE: PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS POISED TO TAKE THE VERY WORST TURN. SEPARATISTS, FIRED BY EACH OTHER'S ENTHUSIASM AND ENCOURAGED BY TRADITION, ARE NOW TALKING OF RAISING ARMIES TO DEFEND BORDERS THAT EXIST BECAUSE OF A TRAGIC HISTORICAL ERROR.

3. REBELS TALK OF LAYING DOWN THEIR LIVES TO PLAY MIDWIFE TO AN UNWORKABLE NATIONAL CONCEPT AND THE CHIEF MINISTER, MR. MICHAEL SOMARE, THREATENS STRONG ACTION.

4. MEANWHILE, AUSTRALIA, WHICH THROUGH THE ILL-ADVISED UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS PAST, MANOEUVRED ITSELF INTO

A POSITION OF ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND NO POWER, NOW
LOOKS ON APPREHENSIVELY.

5. THE SITUATION TODAY IS DECAYING SO RAPIDLY THAT
THOSE WHO SAID AUSTRALIA COULD NOT PRODUCE A UNITED
NATION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA WITHIN THE TIME WORLD
OPINION WOULD PERMIT MAY BE PROVEN CORRECT.

6. WHAT EXISTS IS A FORMER PERMANENT HEAD OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,
MR. SIMON KAUMI, WITH THE PAPUAN SEPARATISTS LED BY
MISS JOSEPHINE ABAIAH (AND URGED ON BY THE PORT
MORESBY CITY COUNCIL, THE BLACK POWER MOVEMENT, THE
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY AND SOME TRADE UNIONS),
DECLARING PAPUA A REPUBLIC. THEY HAVE SET UP AN
INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL SEEK
UNITED NATIONS HELP IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO SPLIT FROM
THE UNION.

7. AUSTRALIA HAS ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY IN THE
UNITED NATIONS AND BEFORE THE WORLD FOR SWIFTLY
BRINGING PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO INDEPENDENCE AS AN
ENTITY. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SAID REPEATEDLY
THAT THIS IS THE ONLY DESTINY FOR THE AREA THAT WE
WOULD CONTEMPLATE, BUT WE HAVE ALSO HANDED CONTROL
OVER INTERNAL AFFAIRS TO THE NATIONAL COALITION
GOVERNMENT IN PORT MORESBY.

8. ITS CHIEF MINISTER, MR. SOMARE, HAS NOT BEHAVED
IDLY OVER THIS NEW THREAT TO HIS TENTATIVE NATION:
QTE THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TOLERATE GREEDY AND UN-
SCRUPULOUS POLITICIANS WHO MANIPULATE INNOCENT PEOPLE
TO FURTHER THEIR OWN AMBITIONS, UNQTE HE SAYS. THE
RESPONSIBLE AUSTRALIAN MINISTER, MR. MORRISON, WOULD
APPLAUD THIS STAND WHICH IMPLIES THAT THERE WILL BE
NO UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THAT
ANYBODY WHO SEEKS TO DIVIDE PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS ASKING
FOR A FIGHT.

9. THE SEPARATISTS SEE PAPUA AS ONE NATION, STRETCHING,
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FROM THE WESTERN TIP OF THE ISLAND, NOW WELL ENTRENCHED
IN INDONESIAN HANDS AS PART OF IRIAN JAYA, TO SAMARAI,
THE D ENTRECASTEAUX ISLANDS AND THE LOUISIADE ARCHIPELAGO
TO YELA ISLAND IN THE EAST. THIS IS NOT A NEW DREAM BUT
IT IS UNNECESSARY AND UNREALISTIC.

10. THERE ARE RUMBLINGS IN PORT MORESBY TODAY THAT
THE DISSIDENTS ARE LOOKING WEST TO IRIAN JAYA FOR

SUPPORT AND WEAPONS MORE SUITED TO THE KIND OF WAR
THEY DREAM OF THAN THE TRADITIONAL BOW AND ARROW FOR
WHICH TEAR GAS HAS PROVED A GOOD ANTIDOTE.

11. UP UNTIL NOW, NONE OF THE DIVERGENT GROUPS HAS
DARED TO COURT STRONG, DIRECT INTERVENTION BY THE
NATIONAL COALITION WITH SUCH A WILD NOTION. THE
BORDER BETWEEN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND INDONESIA IS
ILL-DEFINED AND FOR MANY PRACTICAL PURPOSES NON-
EXISTENT, BUT IT IS A SYMBOLIC FOCUS OF THE
MATURITY OF BOTH NATIONS THAT LIE JUST TO THE NORTH
OF AUSTRALIA. MANY DISAFFECTED IRIANESE HAVE
CROSSED IT, SOME HAVE BEEN RETURNED, OTHERS HAVE
STAYED TO SPREAD STORIES OF THE DREAM OF PAPUAN
NATIONHOOD BUT NOBODY HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE
THE CHIEF MINISTER S MEN THAT ANY REASON THEY
COULD ADVANCE HAS BEEN GOOD ENOUGH TO VIOLATE THE
TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING THAT IS GROWING BETWEEN
THE NEIGHBORS.

12. THE NATIONAL COALITION IS EQUIPPED TO LEAD
PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO NATIONHOOD AND INDEPENDENCE,
THE OPPOSITION IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IS LOYAL
TO THE SAME GOAL WHILE DIFFERING IN A VIGOROUS
AND HEALTHY WAY WHEN IT SEES FIT. THE MANY
SEPARATIST GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY SHOW SIGNS OF
FEEDING OFF EACH OTHER, NONE DESERVES TO BE
FOSTERED, ALL SHOULD KNOW THAT THEIR EFFORTS
DEBASE THE WORTHY AIM OF UNITY AND THAT WHATEVER
STRENGTH IS NEEDED TO DISSUADE THEM WILL BE
EXERTED. UNQUOTE.

13. COMMENT WILL BE HAND CARRIED TO TAIPEI FOR
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